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*Senate*

## RECOGNITION OF RICHARD WELDON'S RETIREMENT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Richard Weldon upon his retirement from the New Castle Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Dick served on the Board for twenty-three years. He has been a respected colleague and remains a trusted friend.

In his twenty-two years as Board Vice Chair, Dick was an effective liaison between Delaware's State legislature and State agencies, promoting water and soil conservation. He was a strong advocate for the role of conservation districts and the driving force behind the construction of a new conservation office for the New Castle Conservation District and the U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies.

I had the pleasure of serving alongside Dick's brother, CURT WELDON, in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1992. We all share a passion for protecting the environment, an enthusiasm that ensured we remained focused over the years to protecting our area's historic and open spaces. Together, we worked across party lines to ensure that a balance between progress and preservation was struck. Today that balance appears precarious without Dick.

Dick held a position of leadership within the National Association of Conservation Districts for many years. As Delaware's Governor, I appointed Dick to the Soil and Water Advisory Council. He was also Chair

of the Coastal and Urban Committee from 1994 to 1997.

Dick led the Committee to hold the National Urban Conservation Conference, the first successful coordination of Federal agencies with urban conservation programs. His leadership brought Federal agencies to the table, harvesting the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Resource Conservation Service, and the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The successful conference pooled their interests, goals and resources and resulted in efficient and productive initiatives.

After thirty-eight years of service, Mr. Weldon retired from Star Enterprises in 1993, having also retired as regional chair of the Republican Committee in Delaware in 1978.

Dick and his wife Fay continue to be active members in their community, particularly within their church. The joy of their four children and nine grandchildren will undoubtedly keep their days full.

Richard Weldon defined his career working for clean and practical energy solutions, earning a reputation for promoting conservation while protecting resources. Upon his retirement he leaves a legacy of commitment to public service for both his children and grandchildren and the generations that will follow.